

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6615

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS AMBASSADOR HODGSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, JA

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON MIKI CABINET

REF: TOKYO 16040

FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF SUMMARIES ON MEMBERS OF MIKI CABINET (ALL MEMBERS OF LOWER HOUSE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED). DATA IS NOT PROVIDED FOR MASAYOSHI OHIRA AND TAKEO FUKUDA, ALREADY AMPLY DOCUMENTED BY CENTRAL REFERENCE SERVICE.

1. MINISTER OF JUSTICE - OSAMU INABA, 65, NAKASONE FACTION. CHUO UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR AND VETERAN POLITICIAN, HE IS LONG-TIME ADVOCATE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION. DESCRIBED AS "HAWK," INABA WAS EDUCATION MINISTER IN FIRST TANAKA CABINET. HE HAS BEEN ELECTED 10 TIMES FROM NIIGATA.

2. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - KIICHI MIYAZAWA, 55, OHIRA
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FACTION, PROTEGE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER IDEDA, HE HAS

SERVED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EPA AND AS ITI MINISTER AND IS CONSIDERED ONE OF LDP'S LEADING ECONOMIC THINKERS. PARTICIPANT IN MANY MAJOR POSTWAR U.S.-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS, HE WAS CREDITED WITH "TOUGH STAND" ON TEXTILE PROBLEM. STRONGLY INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HE HAS BEEN ELECTED 3 TIMES FROM HIROSHIMA (WITH PREVIOUS SERVICE IN UPPER HOUSE).

3. MINISTER OF FINANCE - MASAYOSHII OHIRA, 64, (INCUMBENT) OHIRA FACTION.

4. MINISTER OF EDUCATION - MICHIO NAGAI, 51, NO FACTIONAL AFFILIATION. ONLY NON-DIET MEMBER IN CABINET, NAGAI IS FORMER KYOTO UNIVERSITY AND TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PROFESSOR AND ASAHI SHIMBUN EDITORIAL WRITER. DID GRADUATE WORK AT OHIO STATE AND SERVED AS COMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR AT EAST-WEST CENTER IN HAWAII (1972-73). LONG-TIME ADVOCATE OF UNIVERSITY REFORM, NAGAI IS CHOICE WELL RECEIVED BY JAPAN TEACHERS UNION, BUT LESS ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY EDUCATION MINISTRY STAFFERS. HE HAS HAD CLOSE CONTACTS WITH US ACADEMIC CIRCLES.

5. MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE - MASAMI TANAKA, 57, FUKUDA FACTION. FIRST TIME IN CABINET, TANAKA IS CONSIDERED COMPETENT CHOICE BECAUSE OF BACKGROUND IN WELFARE FIELD, INCLUDING SERVICE AS PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER IN HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY. TWENTY YEAR DIET VETERAN, HE HAS HELD SEVERAL MINOR PARTY POSTS. ELECTED 7 TIMES FROM HOKKAIDO.

6. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY - SHINTARO ABE, 50, FUKUDA FACTION. FORMER NEWSMAN, ABE IS KEY MEMBER OF FUKUDA FACTION AND SON-IN-LAW OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER KISHI. ELECTED TO DIET AT AGE 34, HE HAS OCCUPIED SEVERAL SECOND ECHELON PARTY POSTS, BUT THIS IS FIRST MAJOR APPOINTMENT. ADEPT AT POLITICAL MANEUVER, ABE REPORTEDLY PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN FUKUDA CAMPAIGN TO OUST TANAKA AS PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO DIET 5 TIMES FROM YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE.

7. MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY - TOSHIO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KOMOTO, 63, MIKI FACTION. ALTHOUGH HE HAS DONE WELL IN BUSINESS AS PRESIDENT OF SANKO STEAMSHIP COMPANY, KOMOTO HAS NOT BEEN POLITICAL STAR. EXCEPT FOR STINT AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER UNDER SATO, HE HAS REMAINED IN BACKGROUND AS ADVISOR AND STRONG SUPPORTER OF MIKI. KOMOTO'S SELECTION APPEARS TO BE REWARD FOR LOYAL SERVICE AND HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BECAUSE OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN SPECULATIVE AND SOMEWHAT QUESTIONABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES.

HE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO DIET 10 TIMES FROM HYOGO PREFECTURE.

8. MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION - MUTSUO KIMURA, 61, TANAKA FACTION. FORMER TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY BUREAUCRAT, KIMURA IS CONSIDERED WELL QUALIFIED IN PROFESSIONAL TERMS FOR NEW POST. CHARACTERIZED AS OVERLY BUREAUCRATIC, HE REPORTEDLY LACKS POLITICAL INSTINCTS, ALTHOUGH HE FUNCTIONED WELL IN RECENT MONTHS AS CHAIRMAN OF LDP DIET POLICY COMMITTEE. NATIVE OF OKAYAMA PREFECTURE, HE HAS BEEN ELECTED TO DIET 3 TIMES.

9. MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - ISAMU MURAKAMI, 72, MIZUTA FACTION. MURAKAMI HELD SAME POST 20 YEARS AGO AND LATER ALSO SERVED AS CONSTRUCTION MINISTER. ALTHOUGH INFLUENCE OF THIS ONE-TIME FACTION LEADER HAS WANED IN RECENT YEARS, HE STILL HAS SOME CLOUT IN LDP COUNCILS AND IS ADROIT AT POLITICAL MANEUVER. ONE OF MOST SENIOR LDP MEMBERS, MURAKAMI HAS BEEN ELECTED 12 TIMES FROM OITA PREFECTURE.

10. MINISTER OF LABOR - TAKASHI HASEGAWA, 62, ISHII FACTION. HASEGAWA OCCUPIED SAME POST UNTIL MONTH AGO WHEN TANAKA RESHUFFLED CABINET. HE WAS GIVEN GENERALLY HIGH MARKS FOR HANDLING OF LABOR PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY LAST SPRING OFFENSIVE. BOTH LABOR AND BUSINESS REPORTEDLY FAVOR APPOINTMENT. ONE TIME NEWSPAPER MAN IN KYUSHU, HASEGAWA HAS BEEN ELECTED TO DIET 7 TIMES.

11. MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION - TADAO KARIYA, 61, TANAKA FACTION. SERVING FIRST TIME IN CABINET POST, KARIYA IS IMPORTANT MEMBER OF TANAKA FACTION WHOSE APPOINTMENT IS BASED LARGELY ON FACTIONAL SENIORITY. ELECTED 5 TIMES FROM KOCHI PREFECTURE.

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12. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CONCURRENTLY CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION AND DIRECTOR GENERAL, HOKKAIDO DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) - HAJIME FUKUDA, 72, FUNADA FACTION. SENIOR LDP DIET MEMBER, FUKUDA IS HELDOVER FROM PREVIOUS CABINET. HE SERVED 20 YEARS WITH KYODO NEWS SERVICE, ENDING PRESS CAREER AS POLITICAL EDITOR. AS LDP MEMBER, HE HAS HEADED SEVERAL DIET COMMITTEES AND IN 1962 WAS NAMED ITI MINISTER IN IKEDA CABINET. HE WAS FIRST NAMED HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER IN 1972. FUKUDA HAS BEEN ELECTED 9 TIMES FROM FUKUI PREFECTURE.

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13. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY - ICHITARO IDE, 62, MIKI FACTION. ONE OF PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S CLOSEST ASSOCIATES SINCE EARLY POST-WAR DAYS, IDE IS CONSIDERED LOGICAL CHOICE FOR CURRENT JOB. KYOTO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, HE IS EXPERT IN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS AND TWICE SERVED AS AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MINISTER. HE HAS ALSO BEEN MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND LDP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN. VETERAN POLITICIAN, HE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO DIET 12 TIMES.

14. DIRECTOR GENERAL, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (CONCURRENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL, OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) - MITSUNORI UEKI, 47, OHIRA FACTION. GRADUATE OF TOKYO UNIVERSITY LAW FACULTY, HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS MEMBER UEKI SERVED IN HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY BEFORE ENTERING POLITICS. NOT WELL KNOWN TO PUBLIC, HE HAS RISEN RAPIDLY IN LDP, IN PART OWING TO CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH UPPER HOUSE PRESIDENT KONO. DESCRIBED BY PRESS AS SINCERE AND TRUSTED BY LDP AND OPPOSITION ALIKE. HE IS YOUNGEST MEMBER OF

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CABINET AND THIS IS HIS FIRST CABINET-LEVEL POST.
ELECTED 3 TIMES FROM KYOTO.

15. DIRECTOR GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT
AGENCY - YUZO MATSUZAWA, 64, SHIINA FACTION. LONG CONSIDERED
CABINET MATERIAL, MATSUZAWA HAS REPUTATION AMONG PEERS FOR
BEING ABLE PERSON. ONE OF TOP LDP EXPERTS ON
AGRICULTURAL MATTERS, HE IS KNOWN AS ACTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR
FARMERS. FORMER LDP DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, HE HAS BEEN
RETURNED TO DIET 7 TIMES.

16. DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEFENSE AGENCY -- MICHITA SAKATA,
58, ISHII FACTION. SAKATA WAS MUCH IN PUBLIC EYE AS
EDUCATION MINISTER DURING PERIOD OF NATION-WIDE
UNIVERSITY DISORDERS IN 1968-69. TO BEST OF OUR
KNOWLEDGE, SAKATA HAS NO PREVIOUS DEFENSE-RELATED EXPERIENCE.
TOKYO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE WITH DEGREE IN LITERATURE, HE
HAS BEEN ELECTED TO DIET 12 TIMES FROM KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE.

17. DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY (CONCURRENTLY
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER) -- TAKEO FUKUDA, 69, FUKUDA FACTION.
WHILE POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN MIKI GOVERNMENT ARE NOT YET
SORTED OUT, IT PRESENTLY APPEARS LIKELY THAT FUKUDA WILL
PLAY EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL, IF NOT DOMINANT, ROLE.

18. DIRECTOR GENERAL, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY
(CONCURRENTLY, CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION-
YOSHITAKE SASAKI, 65, OHIRA FACTION. FORMER GOVERNMENT
BUREAUCRAT (INCLUDING PRE-WAR SERVICE WITH MANCHURIAN
RAILROAD), SASAKI IS RELATIVE LATE COMER TO POLITICAL WORLD.
HE DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE BACKGROUND RELEVANT TO CURRENT
ASSIGNMENT, HAVING SERVED AS FIRST CHAIRMAN OF
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IN 1956. HE HAS ALSO SERVED
AS CHAIRMAN OF LDP SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.
ELECTED 5 TIMES FROM AKITA PREFECTURE.

19. DIRECTOR GENERAL, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY - TATSUO
OZAWA, 58, TANAKA FACTION. GRADUATE OF TOKYO UNIVERSITY
LAW FACULTY, OZAWA SERVED IN PRE-WAR HOME MINISTRY AND
LATER IN WELFARE MINISTRY. HE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE
EXPERTISE ON PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED MATTERS. FORMER DIRECTOR
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GENERAL OF LDP GENERAL AFFAIRS BUREAU AND LDP TREASURY,
OZAWA HAS BEEN STaunch SUPPORTER OF AND MUCH TRUSTED BY
FORMER PRIME MINISTER TANAKA. ELECTED 5 TIMES FROM NIIGATA
PREFECTURE.

20. DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL LAND AGENCY - SHIN KANEMARU,
60, TANAKA FACTION. LARGE, ENERGETIC MAN, KANEMARU
IS DESCRIBED AS ONE OF TANAKA'S MOST TRUSTED AIDES. HE
PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CONSTRUCTION MINISTER.
RETURNED TO DIET 6 TIMES FROM YAMANASHI PREFECTURE.
SHOESMITH

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